

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 11-24 and added new claims 25-32 to further define their invention. Claims 25-23 are supported by, e.g., Figure 23 and the description in paragraphs 0021, 0022, 0026 and 0165 of Applicants' specification.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic interview conducted between the Examiner and the undersigned on March 21, 2007. During the interview, the foregoing amendments to the claims were discussed. In particular, the cancellation of claims 11-24 and the addition of new claims were discussed. The undersigned explained that the new claims would be directed to a semiconductor integrated circuit device including, inter alia, first and second dummy interconnections. The Examiner and the undersigned discussed that claims 75 and 84 in co-pending serial number 10/926,142 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,199,432) also included limitations concerning the first and second dummy interconnections and that those claims were indicated to be allowable by the Examiner. The Examiner understood the discussions and indicated he would reconsider the application upon filing of an amendment.

In view of the cancellation of claims 11-24 and the addition of new claims 25-32, it is submitted the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,614,445 to Hirabayashi in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,506,434 to Ogawa et al. are moot. In any event, it is submitted neither Hirabayashi nor Ogawa et al., or even the combination thereof would have suggested the semiconductor integrated circuit device presently claimed, including the claimed first and second dummy interconnections.

In order to advance the prosecution of the application, Applicants are submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer disclaiming the terminal part of the statutory term of any patent granted on this subject which would extend beyond the full statutory term of prior patent number 7,199,432 (serial number 10/926,142).

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and the attached Terminal Disclaimer, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all the claims now in the application are request.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 1374.36127CC3), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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